

to *Timalia hyperythra* or *T. hypoleuca*; but this point requires further investigation.

Subfamily ORIOLINÆ.

Genus ORIOLUS.

ORIOLUS AUREUS, Gmel. INDIAN ORIOLE or MANGO BIRD.

This is common in the Deccan, frequenting banian trees and topes of mangoes, whence its name. These birds are particularly fond of the fruit of the banian, or Indian fig; the gizzard of one which I shot was full of the seeds of this small fig. The Indian Oriole begins to breed in the month of June. A pair of these birds built their nest on the small forked branches of a flowering tree in my garden at Ahmednuggur. The nest was composed of various fibrous substances, amongst which pieces of hemp appeared to predominate; with this two of the branches were bound together; some fragments of part of a letter which had been torn up and thrown away were inserted; the handwriting on the paper I easily recognized as that of a lady at the station. The nest, in its position, and in the manner in which it was attached to the boughs, was much like that figured by Mr. Yarrell in his work on British Birds as the nest of the Golden Oriole. The nest, I believe, contained four eggs, of a white ground with claret-coloured spots. This nest, with the eggs, and a pair of the old birds, are in the possession of the Zoological Society.

NOTICE OF A NEW INDIAN SWALLOW.

By FREDERIC MOORE, ASSIST. EAST IND. COMP. MUSEUM.

The subject that I beg to lay before the Meeting this evening, is a new form belonging to the family *Hirundinidæ*, lately collected in Nepal and presented to the Museum of the East India Company by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., which is allied to, but certainly distinct from, the genus *Chelidon*, and for which the following anagrammatic name is proposed.

DELICHON (nov. gen.).

Gen. Char. Bill short, thick, robust, gape rather wide, the culmen rounded, the nostrils basal, lateral and rounded. Wings rather long, with the first quill the longest. Tail short, and emarginated or nearly even at the end. Tarsi longer than the middle toe, and clothed with plumes. Toes long and clothed with plumes, the inner shorter than the outer; the claws moderate and curved.

Type, *D. Nipalensis*, Hodgs. n. sp.

Spec. Char. Top of the head, chin, cheeks, ear-coverts, nape, back, upper and under tail-coverts, fine glossy black; wings black, paler beneath, the upper coverts fringed with glossy black, the under coverts dusky black; tail black, fringed on the external webs with glossy black; a band of white across the rump; throat, breast, abdomen, lower part of flanks and vent white, upper part of flanks black; tarsi

and toes covered with white plumes; claws pale flesh-colour; bill black.

Length from tip of the bill to the end of the tail, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; of wing, $3\frac{5}{8}$; of tail, $1\frac{5}{8}$; bill to front, $\frac{3}{10}$; to gape, $\frac{7}{16}$; height from chin to front, $\frac{1}{8}$; breadth at front, $\frac{3}{20}$; tarse, $\frac{7}{16}$; middle toe and claw, $\frac{9}{20}$; hind toe, $\frac{7}{20}$.

Hab. Nepal. (No. 963. Hodgs. Catal.)

This interesting bird differs from the type of the genus *Chelidon* by its smaller and more robust bill and by its shorter and even tail; the wings also are shorter. From the genus *Cotyle* it is at once distinguished by its plumed feet.

NOTICE OF SOME NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS CONTAINED IN THE
MUSEUM OF THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANY.

BY FREDERIC MOORE, ASSIST. EAST IND. COMP. MUSEUM.

Family MERULIDÆ, Vigors.

Subfamily TIMALINA, Vigors.

Genus PYCTORHIS, Hodgson (1844). *Chrysonna* (Blyth),
Hodgson (1845).

1. PYCTORHIS LONGIROSTRIS, Hodgson.

Forehead, crown, nape, back, rump, upper tail-coverts and tail rufous-brown, deepest on the crown, wings and tail, the last being distinctly rayed; chin, throat, base of lower mandible, middle of belly and vent white; ear-coverts, sides of the neck and breast pale rufescent, brightening on the flanks, thighs and under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts also rufescent; bill black, yellowish beneath at base; legs pale horny.

Length, $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; of wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail, $3\frac{1}{4}$; bill to frontal plumes, $\frac{5}{8}$; to gape, 1 inch; height from chin to front, $\frac{2}{10}$; tarse, 1 inch; middle toe and claw, $1\frac{1}{10}$; central and lateral ditto, $\frac{7}{10}$; hind ditto, $\frac{7}{10}$.

Hab. Nepal. (No. 892. Hodgs. Catal.)

This bird may be distinguished from *Pyct. sinensis* (better known under the name of *Timalia hypoleuca*) by its larger size, by the lengthened bill, the rufescent colour of the under parts, and by the absence of white before the eye. It may possibly be the species noticed by Mr. I. W. Frith, in the 'Journ. As. Soc. Beng.' xiii. p. 370, as being found in Bengal, which he states "differs from the common species in being about half larger."

I may here notice, in connexion with this genus, that Mr. Hodgson, in 'Proc. Zool. Soc.' 1845, p. 24, refers his genus *Pyctorhis* only to *sinensis*, and not to the bird named *rufifrons*, which is there described as an *Actinodura*, it being synonymous with the species previously described by Mr. Gould under the name of *Actinodura Egertoni*.